

REMARKS

The undersigned thanks the examiner for the courtesies extended during the telephone interview conducted February 2, 2005. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application including consideration and allowance of claims 4, 6-11, 13 and 16. Withdrawn claims 5, 14, 15 and 17-23 are canceled by this amendment. Applicants have amended claim 4 in accordance with the telephone interview conducted with the examiner on February 2, 2005.

On February 2, 2005, the applicants, pursuant to the aforementioned telephone interview, submitted to the examiner a proposed amendment containing amended claim 4 which addressed the rejections in the November 5, 2004 Office Action with respect to the Freyne, Hourlier et al. and Sherman references. In a subsequent telephone message received from the examiner on February 7, 2005, the examiner indicated that the proposed amendments placed the claims in allowable form. All withdrawn claims have been canceled.

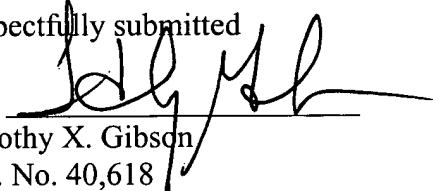
In view of the foregoing, applicants submit that the instant claims are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

A one-month petition for extension of time regarding the above-identified patent application is enclosed.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 11-0223 therefore.

Respectfully submitted

Dated: February 9, 2005

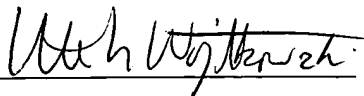
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal service as first class mail, in a postage prepaid envelope, addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on February 9, 2005.

Dated February 9, 2005

Signed



Print Name Ute H. Wojtkowski